

Claims

- [c1] A pre-sterilized, disposable tip individually packaged for single use in an ultrasonic dental insert, comprising:
- a monolithic polymeric tip having a coupling element at a proximal end;
 - a sealed container individually packaging the tip, wherein the tip is sterilizable in the container.
- [c2] The tip of claim 1 wherein the polymer is selected from nylon, polyethylene, or polypropylene.
- [c3] The tip of claim 1 wherein the tip is injection molded.
- [c4] The tip of claim 1 wherein the sealed container has been sterilized by gas permeation.
- [c5] The tip of claim 1 wherein the sealed container has been sterilized by irradiation.
- [c6] The tip of claim 1 wherein the coupling element comprises threads.
- [c7] The tip of claim 1 wherein the container comprises paper.
- [c8] The tip of claim 1 wherein the container comprises polymeric film.
- [c9] A disposable tip of injection molded nylon, polyethylene or polypropylene having screw threads at a proximal end for attachment to an ultrasonic dental insert, individually packaged in a sealed container comprising paper or polymeric film, and sterilized by gas permeation or irradiation.
- [c10] A method for supplying a sterilized, single-use, disposable tip for use with an ultrasonic dental scaler insert comprising:
- forming a polymeric tip for the ultrasonic dental scaler insert;
 - individually packaging the polymeric tip in a sealed container; and
 - sterilizing the packaged tip.
- [c11] The method of claim 10, further comprising:
- coupling the individually packaged sterilized polymeric tip with other

individually packaged sterilized polymeric tips; and
packaging the coupled tips as a quantity package.

- [c12] The method of claim 11, further comprising:
distributing the quantity package.
- [c13] The method of claim 11, further comprising:
distributing the individually packaged sterilized polymeric tip to a dental practitioner.
- [c14] The method of claim 11, wherein the sealed container is a vacuum-sealed plastic packaging.
- [c15] A method for using a disposable tip with an ultrasonic dental scaler, comprising:
supplying a sterilized polymeric tip in a sealed container to a dental practitioner according to claim 11;
removing the tip from the packaging;
attaching the tip to a dental insert;
securing the dental insert in a handpiece of a dental scaler;
operating the dental scaler to clean titanium implants; and
disposing of the tip after the operation.
- [c16] The method of claim 15, further comprising:
distributing a quantity package comprising a plurality of the sealed containers.
- [c17] A method comprising:
acquiring a polymeric tip for an ultrasonic dental scaler comprising a dental insert;
individually packaging the polymeric tip in a sealed container;
sterilizing the tip in the sealed container;
transporting the sealed container to a dental office;
removing the sterilized polymeric tip from the sealed container;
attaching the sterilized polymeric tip to the dental insert;
operating the polymeric tip to clean the teeth of a patient, wherein the

patient has titanium implants; and
thereafter disposing of the polymeric tip.

[c18] The method of claim 17, further comprising:
coupling the individually packaged sterilized polymeric tip with other
individually packaged sterilized polymeric tips; and
assembling the coupled tips as a quantity package.

[c19] The method of claim 17, further comprising:
removing the used tip from the dental insert for the disposal;
thereafter sterilizing the dental insert; and
repeating said removal, attachment and operation with a new tip, the
sterilized dental insert, and a different patient.